

## **CLAIMS**

We claim:

- 1       1. A method for processing invoices, comprising the steps
- 2       of:
  - 3       preparing an invoice image;
  - 4       storing said invoice image in an image store;
  - 5       keying said image to invoice data;
  - 6       communicating invoice confirmation request to a
  - 7       requester, said request including said invoice data and
  - 8       a link to said invoice image;
  - 9       responsive to requester selection of said link,
  - 10      displaying said invoice image.

1       2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

2           preparing said invoice images by scanning paper  
3           invoices received from a vendor.

1       3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

2           preparing other of said invoice images by converting  
3           electronic invoices received from a vendor into an  
4           image file representation having the look and feel of a  
5           paper invoice.

1       4. The method of claim 1, said invoice confirmation  
2       request advising said requester to process said confirmation  
3       as negative confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1       5. The method of claim 4, said invoice confirmation  
2       request further advising said requester to log on to a  
3       front- end requisition and catalog server to view invoices  
4       for confirmation.

1       6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step  
2 responsive to said requester logging on to said front-end  
3 server of displaying a list of invoices awaiting  
4 confirmation and responsive to user selection of a selected  
5 invoice, presenting images of invoices corresponding to  
6 links selected by said requester.

1       7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of  
2 presenting to said requester an interface for selecting  
3 images of invoices matching a selection criteria.

1       8. A method for processing invoices, comprising the steps  
2 of:

3           selectively executing a positive confirmation process  
4           or a negative confirmation process;

5           said confirmation processes including communicating to  
6           a user browser an image of said invoice to be approved,  
7           said image selectively resulting from scanning a paper  
8           invoice, or from converting an electronic invoice, into  
9           an image file.

1       9. A system for processing invoices, comprising:

2           a front-end requisition and catalog system;

3           a back-end procurement services system;

4           a scanner for scanning images of invoices;

5           an image system and store for storing said scanned  
6           images and serving them to said workstation keyed to  
7           said invoice;

8           a workstation selectively receiving user entry of a  
9           requisition request, receiving confirmation requests,  
10          and viewing images of invoices from said image system  
11          and store;

12         said front-end system selectively receiving requisition  
13          requests from said workstation, forwarding said  
14          requisition requests to said back-end system, and  
15          receiving confirmation requests from said back-end  
16          system for forwarding to said workstation; and

17           said back-end system selectively issuing purchase  
18           orders against said requisitions, receiving and  
19           processing invoices, keying invoice images to invoice  
20           information, and processing confirmation requests to  
21           said front-end system for communication to said  
22           workstation.

1       10. A program storage device readable by a machine,  
2           tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a  
3           machine to perform method steps for processing invoices,  
4           said method steps comprising:  
5                   preparing an invoice image;  
6                   storing said invoice image in an image store;  
7                   keying said image to invoice data;  
8                   communicating invoice confirmation request to a  
9                   requester, said request including said invoice data and  
10                  a link to said invoice image;

11           responsive to requester selection of said link,  
12           displaying said invoice image.

1       11. A computer program product or computer program element  
2       for processing invoices according to steps comprising:

3           preparing an invoice image;

4           storing said invoice image in an image store;

5           keying said image to invoice data;

6           communicating invoice confirmation request to a  
7           requester, said request including said invoice data and  
8           a link to said invoice image;

9           responsive to requester selection of said link,  
10          displaying said invoice image.